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Rec'd: DECEMBER 29, 1958

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Info  
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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: POLTO 1821, DECEMBER 29, 8 PM

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SENT DEPARTMENT POLTO 1821, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON POLTO 495, BONN POLTO 312, MOSCOW POLTO 86.

NAC MEETING, DECEMBER 29- DRAFT REPLIES TO SOVIET  
NOTE OF NOVEMBER 27.

SUMMARY

NAC DISCUSSION OF DRAFT REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE OF NOVEMBER 27 WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF AND LIMITED PRIMARILY TO BELGIAN AND CANADIAN COMMENTS ON UNITED STATES DRAFT REPLY. CANADIAN AND BELGIAN SUGGESTIONS, TOGETHER WITH GENERAL ABSENCE OF COMMENTS FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS INDICATED BASIC AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSED REPLIES. VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS OFFERED BY GERMANY, FRANCE AND SPAAK TO GET AROUND OBJECTIONS EXPRESSED BY SOVIETS IN NOTE OF DECEMBER 25 TO USE OF PHRASE "SOVIET ZONE OF GERMANY" IN COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM WESTERN POWERS. THERE APPEARED TO BE GENERAL SUPPORT FOR VIEW EXPRESSED BY SPAAK THAT, FROM PUBLIC OPINION POINT OF VIEW WESTERN POWERS SHOULD AVOID HAVING NOTES RETURNED TO THEM BY SOVIETS BECAUSE OF TERMINOLOGY APPLIED EAST GERMAN REGIME.

END SUMMARY

UNITED STATES OPENED DISCUSSION BY CALLING ATTENTION TO MINOR CHANGES MADE IN UNITED STATES DRAFT TEXT (REVISED COPY OF WHICH WAS CIRCULATED TO PERMREPS). EMPHASIZED CHANGES WERE DESIGNED

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WERE DESIGNED TO POLISH UP A FEW ROUGH PLACES IN THE DRAFT AND WERE RESULT IN PART OF SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM ALLIES MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED. FOUR NOTES REFLECTED EXTRAORDINARY AGREEMENT AND FITTED IN WELL WITH EACH OTHER.

BELGIAN COMMENTS WERE LARGELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE. SUGGESTED ADDITION OF IDEA IN PARA 6 WHICH BELGIAN REP ASCRIBED TO SECRETARY DULLES THAT IN ORDER TO HAVE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE TREATIES MUST BE ASCRIBED BY. ALSO SUGGESTED ADDITION TO LAST SENTENCE PARA 8 TO BRING OUT IDEA SOVIETS NOT ONLY ATTEMPTING TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM OBLIGATIONS BUT ALSO TO IMPOSE THEIR OWN SOLUTION BEFORE PERMREP EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ADDITION TO PARA 14 INDICATING OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS EUROPEAN SECURITY AS WELL AS THE GERMAN PROBLEM.

CANADIAN PERMREP RAISED QUESTION OF MEANING OF SECOND SENTENCE PARA 13 RELATIVE TO UNWILLINGNESS OF UNITED STATES TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET UNION UNDER "MENACE OR ULTIMATUM". STATED HE INTERPRETED "ULTIMATUM" IN SOVIET NOTE TO MEAN ONLY THAT SOVIETS WOULD WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM CHECK POINTS. ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO RECENT GROMYKO STATEMENT THAT NO ULTIMATUM WAS INTENDED. HENCE SUGGESTED REVISION OR DELETION OF THIS PHRASE. SPAAK POINTED OUT THAT POSITION OF THREE POWERS WAS THAT THEY COULD NOT NEGOTIATE UNDER ULTIMATUM AND WERE MERELY ASKING GROMYKO IF ULTIMATUM WERE INTENDED. IN RESPONSE TO UNITED KINGDOM QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION OF CANADIAN VIEW ON THIS POINT, CANADIAN PERMREP STATED THAT HE DID NOT OBJECT TO MAINTENANCE OF LANGUAGE OF DRAFT TEXT ON CONDITION FORMAL RETRACTION WOULD NOT BE DEMANDED OF SOVIET UNION BEFORE NEGOTIATING. UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM MADE CLEAR LANGUAGE ASSUMED THAT NO ULTIMATUM WAS INTENDED BUT THEY WISHED TO MAKE SURE. UNITED KINGDOM POINTED OUT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR RUSSIANS TO MAKE REPLY TO THIS SPECIFIC POINT BUT THAT THEY ONLY HAD TO START NEGOTIATING. FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT HOWEVER TO LET RUSSIANS KNOW THAT NOTE OF NOVEMBER 27 WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US.

UNITED STATES

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-3- POLTO 1821, DECEMBER 29, 8 PM FROM PARIS

UNITED STATES PERMREP RAISED QUESTION OF SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO TERMINOLOGY USED BY WESTERN POWERS WHEN REFERRING TO EAST GERMAN REGIME. STATED THAT SOURMGWEVYR\* WERE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO GO THROUGH THEIR NOTES AND REMOVE LANGUAGE OBJECTIONABLE TO SOVIETS.

GERMAN PERMREP INDICATED HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SUGGEST CHANGES THAT MIGHT BE MADE. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BELIEVED SOVIETS WERE NOT NECESSARILY INSISTING ON DESIGNATION OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC BY THAT NAME. RATHER SOVIETS OBJECTED TO WESTERN POWERS SUGGESTING THAT EAST GERMANY WAS STILL BEING OCCUPIED BY SOVIET ARMY. GERMAN PERMREP SUGGESTED SOVIET ZONE MIGHT BE DESIGNATED AS "SO-CALLED GDR", PANKOW REGIME, AND REGIME OF "REGIME IN GERMAN TERRITORY ON EASTERN SIDE OF IRON CURTAIN". STRESSED WESTERN POWERS SHOULD NOT HOWEVER REFER TO "EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES".

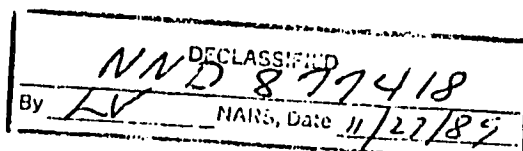
UNITED STATES PERMREP STATED SOVIETS APPEARED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO GET LANGUAGE RECOGNIZING GDR. INDICATED WE WERE INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH PRESENT LANGUAGE IN DRAFT TEXT DENOTING EAST GERMAN REGIME. UNITED KINGDOM INDICATED IT HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT WAS INCLINED TO AGREE THAT RUSSIANS ONLY SAYING THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY LANGUAGE IMPLYING SOVIET OCCUPIED ZONE. FRANCE HAD NO STRONG FEELINGS IN MATTER. COULD NOT AGREE WITH TERM "PANKOW REGIME" SINCE THIS MIGHT IMPLY RECOGNITION. INDICATED "AUTHORITIES OF EAST GERMANY" ACCEPTABLE TO FRANCE, POINTING OUT "AUTHORITIES" DID NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING IN FRENCH AS IN ENGLISH. CAUTIONED THAT PUBLIC OPINION MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND IF SOVIETS RETURNED NOTES BECAUSE OF DESIGNATION GIVEN TO EAST GERMAN REGIME.

SPAAK SUGGESTED TWO PHRASES WHICH MIGHT BE USED, ONE REFERRING TO "AUTHORITIES" AND THE OTHER TO TERRITORY AS FOLLOWS: "AUTHORITIES WHICH USSR RECOGNIZE IN EASTERN GERMANY" AND "ZONE WHICH WAS ALLOCATED TO THE SOVIET UNION". SPAAK EMPHASIZED THAT WESTERN POWERS SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SECURE FORMULATION THAT WOULD AVOID NOTES BEING REJECTED BY SOVIETS SINCE PUBLIC OPINION WOULD

NOT UNDERSTAND

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NOT UNDERSTAND. COMMENT: BELIEVE THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT HERE AMONG FOUR WITHOUT SERIOUS DIFFICULTY.

UNITED STATES IN CLOSING DISCUSSION INDICATED THAT SOME MINOR CHANGES MIGHT BE MADE IN DRAFT TEXT BUT THERE WOULD BE NO MAJOR REVISIONS. THE UNITED STATES WOULD CERTAINLY WISH TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE FOR IMPROVING ITS REPLY. PLANNING TO HAVE REPLIES DELIVERED DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

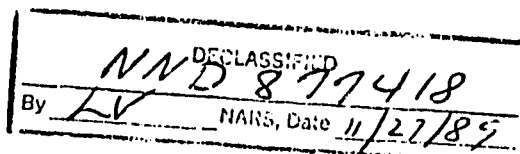
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